

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets, 1/2 and 2/2, include changes to Figs. 1 through 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets 1/2 and 2/2
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, as amended.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 20, 21, 26-29, 33, 40-43, and 47-52. Claims 23-25 and 36-39 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claims 57-66 have been added. Claims 1-19 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 20-22, 26-35 and 40-66 are pending.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, Applicants respectfully submit herewith replacement drawing sheets 1/2 and 2/2 as suggested in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request an indication in the next official communication that the drawings are acceptable.

The claims have been amended to address the alleged informalities. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as well as the claim objections be withdrawn.

Turning to the merits, in the Office Action mailed June 27, 2006, Claims 20-22, 29-35 and 45-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,768,389 to Ishii ("*Ishii*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,105,131 to Carroll ("*Carroll*"). Claims 23-28 and 36-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Ishii* and *Carroll* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,249 to Van Oorschot ("*Van Oorschot*"). Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Ishii* and *Carroll* in further view of Schneier, "Applied Cryptography" ("*Schneier*").

Without acceding to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, independent Claims 20, 29, 47, 51, and 52 have been amended to recite the subject matter of Claims 23-25 and 36-39, which have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, Claim 20 now recites, *inter alia*, a process in which at least one first individual

creation and certification request and at least one second individual certification request are created from corresponding multiple creation and certification requests stored in a storage means relative to a set of users belonging to a preset list, or to a set of users defined by predetermined criteria, as well as relative to model pairs of keys and associated model certificates for either of the sets of users. It is apparent that none of the applied references teaches or suggests these limitations of independent Claim 20.

For example, as acknowledged by the Office Action at page 13, *Ishii* and *Carroll* fail to teach or suggest the above-quoted elements of Claims 23-25, which are now included in independent Claim 20. While the Office Action alleges that column 3, lines 20-38 of *Van Oorschot* discloses the above-quoted claimed elements, Applicants respectfully disagree. The cited portion of *Van Oorschot* merely discloses a public key management system where “an associated authority (e.g., a policy authority, a certificate certification authority and/or a system administrator) provides...a public key of at least one of a plurality of certificate authorities to a client.” *Van Oorschot*, col. 3, lines 14-19. The public key received from the associated authority is then “maintain[ed]...in a storage medium associated with a client cryptographic engine.” *Id.* at col. 3, lines 24-26. Thus, *Van Oorschot* does not cure the deficiencies of *Ishii* and *Carroll* with respect to these claim elements.

In particular, *Van Oorschot*’s providing and maintaining a public key does not teach or suggest, at minimum, creating at least one first individual creation and certification request and at least one second individual certification request from corresponding multiple creation and certification requests stored in a storage means relative to a set of users belonging to a preset list, or to a set of users defined by

predetermined criteria, as well as relative to model pairs of keys and associated model certificates for either set of users.

Moreover, it is apparent that *Schneier* does not teach or suggest the aforementioned features either, nor does the Office Action rely on *Schneier* for such teachings.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that *Ishii*, *Carroll*, *Van Oorschot*, and *Schneier*, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest, at minimum, a process in which at least one first individual creation and certification request and at least one second individual certification request are created from corresponding multiple creation and certification requests stored in a storage means relative to a set of users belonging to a preset list, or to a set of users defined by predetermined criteria, as well as relative to model pairs of keys and associated model certificates for either set of users as recited in amended independent Claim 20.

Independent Claims 29, 47, 51, and 52, while having different scope than independent Claim 20, now recite subject matter similar to that of independent Claim 20 as amended herein, and are allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to independent Claim 20.

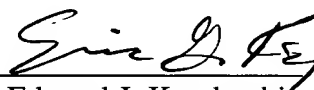
In addition, dependent Claims 21, 22, 26-28, 30-35, 40-46, 48-50, and 53-61 are believed to be patentable at least for their respective dependence from independent Claims 20, 29, 47, 51, or 52, in addition to the additional features recited therein.

New Claims 57-66 have been added to protect additional features of Applicants' invention and are believed to be patentable over the applied prior art at least by virtue of their dependence from their respective independent claims as discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T3264-906313) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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1/2

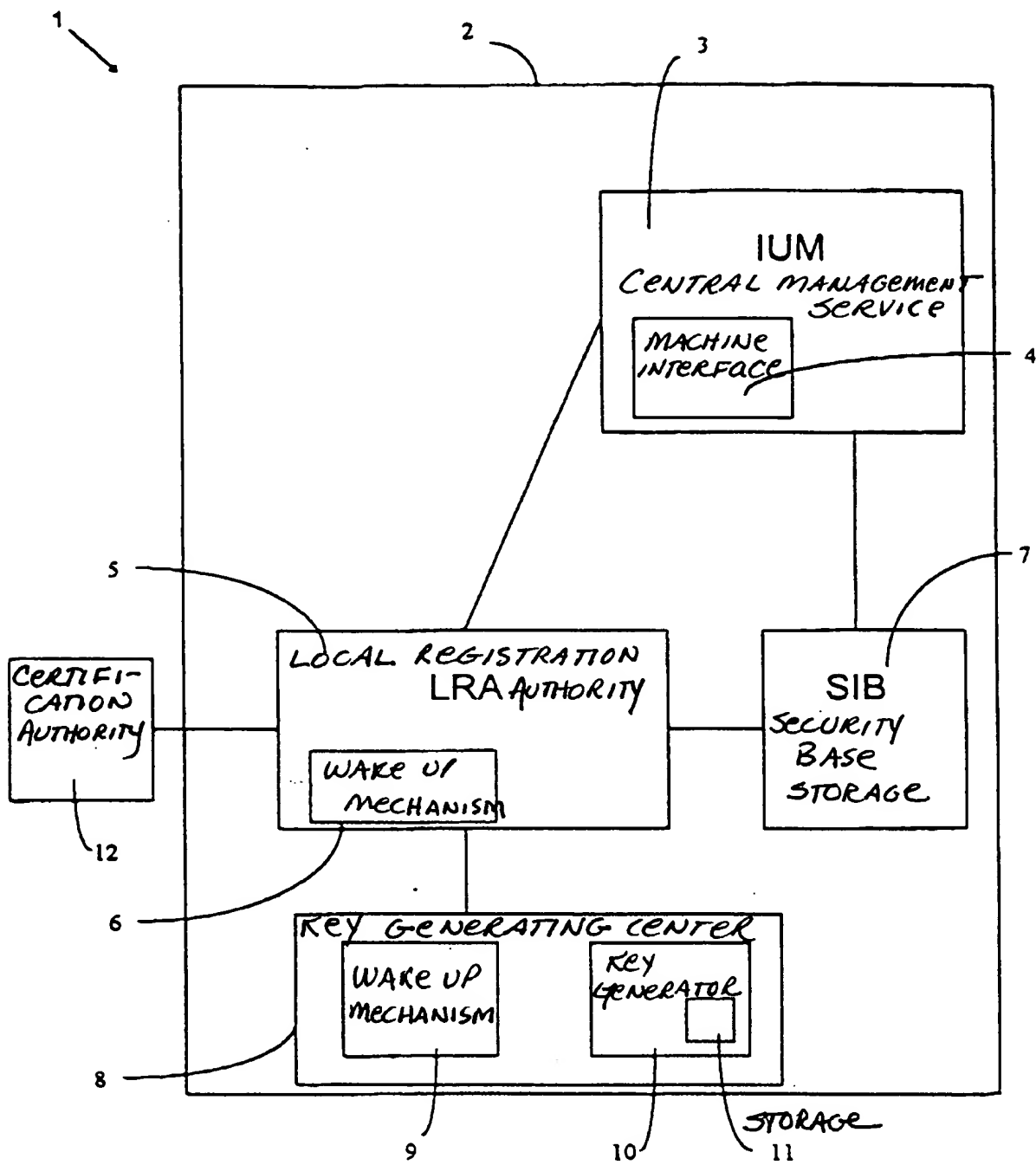


FIG.1

2/2

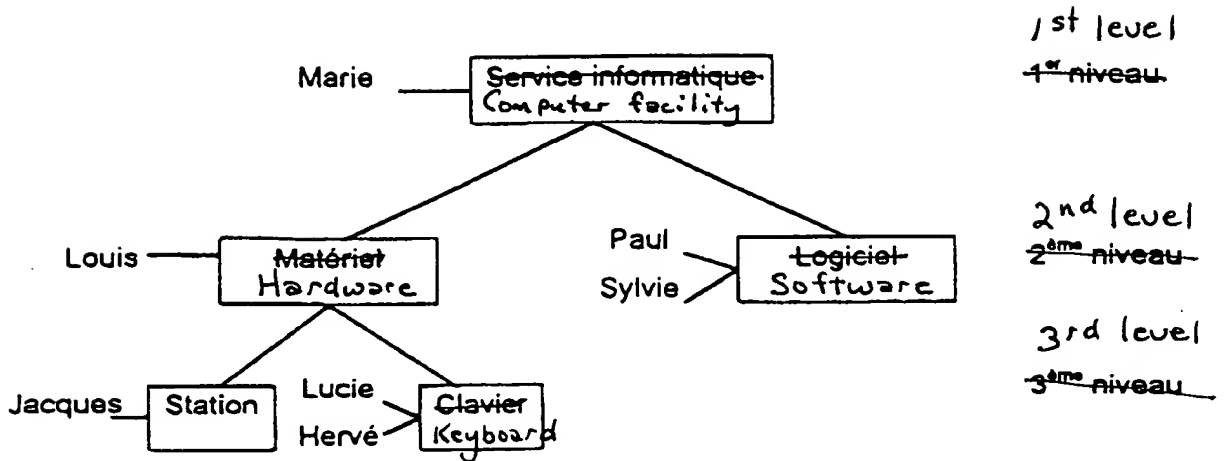


FIG.2

